Priority Plan

Revised January 3, 2002

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Executive Summary

South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Resolution 01-22 adopted on March 15, 2001, created the SFWMD Governing Board's Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) as a means of obtaining stakeholder input on South Florida's critical water resources. The main purpose of the WRAC, an advisory body to the Governing Board, is to develop consensus based recommendations regarding future water resources activities needed to restore, preserve and protect the greater South Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection. Section 3 of the Resolution sets forth a series of eight tasks to be carried out the WRAC.

This report is issued pursuant to SFWMD Resolution 01-22 Section 4 Status Reporting, which directs the WRAC to provide monthly status report to the Governing Board and develop a "Priority Plan". The Priority Plan is to be updated on a quarterly basis and submitted for review and concurrence at regularly scheduled meetings of the Governing Board.

The highest responsibility selected by the members of the Water Resources Advisory Commission (Commission), from among the responsibilities assigned by the Governing Board is to serve as a forum for consensus building on a variety of water resource issues. The Commission identified a number of issues that they would like to prepare as practical recommendations for the SFWMD Governing Board's consideration. The top three issues are:

1. Coordinate Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Programmatic Regulations and related water assurance issues, e.g. Consumptive Use Permitting, Minimum Flows and Levels, reservations, etc.

2. CERP Program and Project scheduling and implementation; and

3. Federal and State CERP funding and financial reporting issues.

The WRAC will be working to develop recommendations regarding the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2000 Programmatic Regulations by February of 2002, which fits within the tight time frame established by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete their development. The schedule for the development of recommendations on the second and third top priorities will be provided in future updates of the Priority Plan. The WRAC will most likely not consider the other issues listed in this plan during the 2001 – 2002 fiscal year. However, should decisions related to the issues identified in the body of this report come up during the year, WRAC would like the opportunity to make recommendations on the matters.

The Commission members have agreed to meet on the first Thursday of every month and have requested a number of water resource briefings. The two-fold purpose of these briefings is to provide an overall picture of the more critical water resources issues affecting the South Florida Ecosystem and to begin establishing a common ground between the Commission members. Briefings will continue to be provided during the course of the years but with less frequency as the WRAC begins the consensus development process.

Through the process of consensus, the Commission made a commitment to meet at least once a year in the four water supply planning regions of the SFWMD. The four regions are the Lower East Coast, Upper East Coast, Kissimmee Basin, and Lower West Coast. In Fiscal Year 2001-2001, the Commission is scheduled to meet in the following counties: Lee, Miami-Dade, Martin, Monroe and Okeechobee. Local water resources, projects and growth management issues briefings will be provided to the WRAC during these "out of headquarters" meetings.

The Commission has decided to provide plenty of opportunities to hear public comments during the course of their meetings as a means to providing opportunities for public input on key issues involved in establishing and sustaining a healthy ecosystem and economy into the future. Additionally, during "out of headquarters" meeting the WRAC will hold informal public receptions to meet members of the hosting communities.

In addition to continuing to receive water resource briefings, the Commission is scheduled to begin consensus development deliberations at their August 2001 meeting.

The Priority Plan is a working document that will be updated on a quarterly basis to accurately reflect the future activities and deliberations of the Water Resources Advisory Commission. In addition to the monthly reports to the Governing Board, the Commission will submit additional reports as necessary to meet its charge.

Priority Plan Issues

A. <u>TOP THREE ISSUES SELECTED</u>
1. Coordinate CERP Programmatic Regulations, Water Use Rulemaking Issues, Consumptive Use Permitting & Minimum Flows & Levels
2. CERP Implementation & scheduling
3. Federal/State CERP Appropriations and Implementation Financial Reporting Issues

B. <u>COMPRESENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN ISSUES</u>
1. POLICY
   a. Water Supply Planning and CERP overlap coordination
   b. Develop regulatory programs based on science
   c. CERP Programmatic Regulations
   d. Develop protocols for managing Issues prior to adoption of CERP
   e. Programmatic Regulations
   f. CERP ASR & Waste Water Reuse Projects
   g. Land acquisition

2. IMPLEMENTATION AND SCHEDULING
   a. Critical path information on Project development
   b. Implementation plan schedule
   c. Updated documentation of CERP implementation
   d. Develop new and innovative recommendations to expedite CERP implementation
   e. Public Outreach Plan
   f. Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice Plan

3. FUNDING
   a. Federal/State Appropriations
   b. Development of Funding Principles
   c. Land Acquisition
   d. CERP implementation financial reporting issues
   e. Improve partnerships between SFWMD and Local Government

4. SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL ISSUES
   a. ASR and Waste Water Reuse
   b. Compare the cost by acre feet of new water (ASR & Reuse)
   c. 245,000 acre feet of water for ENP

C. <u>OTHER ISSUES SELECTED</u>

1. WRDA 2000 pre-condition projects (Critical Projects)
   ➢ C-111 project
   ➢ Modified Water Deliveries
   ➢ Water Quality
2. Everglades Construction Project Phase II by 2006
3. Waste Water Reuse Implementation
4. Lake Okeechobee
   ➢ Long term Lake Okeechobee Management
   ➢ Lake Okeechobee Sediment Removal
   ➢ Sludge disposal Regulations

- ➢ Lake Okeechobee backpumping - Is there a limit?
- ➢ Water Quality data of different discharges points around Lake Okeechobee
5. Growth Management Issues
    - ➢ Projected Regional population growth & infrastructure needs (RPC's) (FDCA) (Counties)
    - ➢ Fostering compatibility between the natural & built system (SFERTF)
6. Estuarine, Coastal & Ocean Issues
    - ➢ Water Flows affecting the estuaries
    - ➢ Sea Level Rise Impacts

Proposed Schedule for Fiscal Year 2001-2002

DATE	LOCATION	BRIEFINGS	CONSENSUS STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT
July 5	West Palm Beach	Combined Consumptive Use Rulemaking & Programmatic Regulations	
Aug. 2	West Palm Beach	➢ CERP Funding and Cash Flow ➢ CERP Project Implementation Status ➢ Land Acquisition strategy ➢ ASR Issues ➢ Programmatic Regulations	➢ Programmatic Regulations
Sept. 6	West Palm Beach	➢ Waste Water Reuse Presentation & Field Trip (Boynton Beach) ➢ CERP Public Outreach & socio-economic & environmental Justice Plans	➢ Programmatic Regulations
Oct. 4	West Palm Beach		➢ CERP Project Implementation ➢ CERP Funding and Cash Flow
Nov. 1	Broward/Joint mtg. with Working Group	➢ Working Group Member Agency Briefings on CERP issues	
Dec. 6	Lee County – Ft. Myers Service Center	➢ Long term drought management & water shortage restrictions (GB) ➢ Big Cypress Basin Issues ➢ RPC & County issues	
Jan. 17 & 18	West Palm Beach	➢ Draft Programmatic Regulations	➢ Review Draft Programmatic Regulations ➢ Develop Governing Board Recommendation
Feb. 7	Miami-Dade County	➢ Biscayne Bay issues ➢ RPC & County issues	➢ Finalize Programmatic Regulations Governing Board Recommendations
Feb. 21	Okeechobee County	Lake Okeechobee issues	
March 7	West Palm Beach		
April 4	Martin County	➢ Indian River Lagoon ➢ RPC & County issues	
May 2	West Palm Beach		
June 6	Monroe County - Keys	➢ Florida Bay & Keys issues ➢ RPC & County issues	
July 18	West Palm Beach		.
Aug. 1	Cancelled		

Water Resources Advisory Commission Draft Communications Guidelines

A.   SCOPE

These guidelines outline identify the communications protocols of the Water Resources Advisory Commission.

B.   PURPOSE

This document is designed to provide a framework for managing communications between the Water Resources Advisory Commission, the Governing Board and staff of the South Florida Water Management.

C.   REFERENCES

Governing Board Resolution No. 01-22
Florida's "Sunshine Law" - §286.011, F.S.
Ethics – §112.313, F.S.

D.   COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES BETWEEN GOVERNING BOARD AND WRAC

1.   Priority Plan Development and Revisions

   a. Within three (3) months of being established the WRAC will develop a Priority Plan for approval by the Governing Board.

   b. The Governing Board and/or WRAC will provide updates to the Priority Plan on an "as needed" basis.

2.   Issue Identification and Input in the Development of the WRAC Agenda

   a. The Governing Board, at their regularly scheduled meeting(s), can request that the WRAC schedule specific policy issues for consideration at the next available meeting, or request that the WRAC hold a special meeting to consider a policy issue. The Governing Board can request a time certain response from the WRAC. Governing Board request(s) for action will be made to the WRAC Chairperson.

   b. The Governing Board can request that Governing Board Operation's staff schedule a WRAC presentation on issues of concerns as part of the next Governing Board meeting or other date specified.

   c. From time to time, the Governing Board can request individual WRAC members to make a presentation at a regularly scheduled Governing Board meeting. Consideration will be given to the individual WRAC member's schedule.

   d. The Governing Board can request that Governing Board Operation's staff schedule a joint meeting with the WRAC.

   e. As a means of keeping the WRAC well informed regarding current water resource issues, the Governing Board will forward the results of major policy decisions to the WRAC.

3.   WRAC REPORTING TO GOVERNING BOARD

a. The WRAC Chairperson will provide monthly briefings to the Governing Board at their regularly scheduled meeting. Briefings will include, but are not limited to, WRAC recommendations, status updates, member presentations and future WRAC agendas.

b. Recommendation(s) - As established in SFWMD Resolution 01-22 the WRAC will make every attempt to reach consensus on every issue reviewed. In order to meet Governing Board requested deadline, or if after a reasonable time frame the WRAC cannot reach consensus, the WRAC Chairperson can stop deliberations and forward the results of the deliberations to the Governing Board identifying the issue(s) that created the deadlock(s).

c. WRAC recommendations that include comments directed at other organizations will be discussed with, and approved by the Governing Board as the District's position prior to finalizing and forwarding recommendations. WRAC recommendations not approved by the Governing Board may be forwarded but will not constitute the agency's position.

d. WRAC members can request to speak to the Governing Board regarding specific stakeholders concerns at a regular Governing Board meeting. After notifying the WRAC at a regularly scheduled meeting Governing Board Operation's staff will make "time certain" appointments.

E. COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES BETWEEN WRAC MEMBERS

1. Policy Discussions
a. All policy discussions will be held during properly noticed WRAC meetings.

b. Staff will record members' position statements and specific questions made to the Governing Board or staff (staff will forward statements and questions to the Governing Board).

c. Individual members can provide written information to all members of the commission. Members receiving said communications are not to reply to the sender of the message. Discussion on the issue raised will be held at the next scheduled meeting.

e. From time to time the different stakeholders groups making up the WRAC membership can request that staff schedule a special stakeholder meeting(s) to discuss and formulate position statements on specific policy issues.

2. Agenda Development
a. Agendas for future WRAC meetings will be developed during regularly scheduled WRAC meetings. Decisions to add additional meeting to the schedule will be considered by the Chairperson during these discussions. A preference for the third Thursday will be given when scheduling additional WRAC meetings.

b. Individual members can request that staff schedule a policy discussion at a future WRAC meeting. After receiving WRAC Chairperson approval, agenda items requested would be considered at the next WRAC meeting, if no time constraints exist.

    c. Agendas will be finalized after review and input form the Governing Board and approval from the Executive Director or designee and the WRAC Chairperson.

3. Expected Meeting Behaviors
WRAC members have agreed to abide by the following behaviors during the course of their meetings:

- Listen actively to others views. Seek to understand before being understood.
- Respect other's perceptions as their reality, even if you have a different point of view.
- Don't interrupt others when they are speaking.
- Don't engage in "side" conversations.
- Disagree without being disagreeable. Express a different viewpoint as a concern or another viewpoint.
- Stay on the point when speaking. Build on others' points.
- Encourage participation from everyone. Speak to the entire group, no one-on-one.
- Share the time equally. Avoid long-winded speeches.
- Be honest. Say what you have to say in the room, not "in the parking lot".
- Don't make anyone "pay a price" for what they say during the meeting.
- Deal with conflicts openly, decide as a group how to resolve them.
- Avoid overselling your ideas or beliefs.
- Don't throw grenades.
- Have fun, keep your sense of humor.
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F. COMMUNICATIONS GUIDELINES BETWEEN DISTRICT STAFF AND WRAC

1. General Communications
    a. WRAC member's request for information will be made to Governing Board Operations staff. Governing Board Operations staff will coordinate a response with appropriate District staff and will ensure distribution to "Interested Parties" and maintain proper records.

2. Agenda Development
    a. Governing Board Operations staff will be responsible for the development of the WRAC agendas, ensuring that all parties concerned (Governing Board, WRAC Members including the WRAC Chairperson, District Staff and Executive Director are involved in the agenda development process.

    b. Governing Board Operations staff will coordinate the agenda development process with other agency staff on an as needed basis.

3. How to Schedule an Issue for WRAC consideration
    a. Governing Board Operation's staff will start the WRAC agenda development process three (3) months prior to a meeting. Agenda's are finalized and distributed ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

    b. Governing Board Operation's staff will be responsible for coordinating communications between WRAC members and SFWMD staff.
      1. SFWMD staff shall contact Governing Board Operation's staff to schedule an issue on the WRAC agenda.

2. Governing Board Operation's staff will coordinate with the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, Department and Division Directors, to schedule WRAC presentations requested by the Governing Board and/or WRAC.

c. A minimum of forty-five (45) days advance notice is required for staff interested in scheduling an issue on the WRAC agenda. The lead time requirement is to allow the Governing Board an opportunity to review and comment on WRAC agendas.

d. Governing Board Operations staff will coordinate with all involved ensuring that staff presentations are well thought out and complete.

e. Copies of the agenda and backup information will be posted on the WRAC web pages. WRAC members and interest parties will be notified by email of said postings. Copies of the materials will be mailed to the members and interested parties.

4.   Presentation Overhead Requirements
Overheads used for WRAC meetings must be clear and easy to read on the monitors. Please use the following format when preparing your presentations:

a. Overhead Projector (ELMO)
- Use an 8 ½ x 11 Horizontal (Landscape) format for the image area.
- On an 8 ½ x 11 Sheet, the Image Area should be 6" x 8". This ensures proper proportions without cropping the image or having negative space.
- Use 1 1/4" Borders

The presentation overheads should use white background with black text. If graphics are on the page, color should be used for clarity. Elmo's overheads should not have a color background.
- Type size should be 24 point to 32 point for text, 36 point to 44 point for headings. (Titles)
- Use **upper and lowercase lettering** (easier to read than all capitals).
- Maps, charts, or other illustrations should have legible type and heavy lines for clarity. (Can be in color)
- Use heavy paper so the presentation from the previous page is not visible. Text Fonts should be **Arial Bold** or **Helvetica Bold**.
- Text Fonts should always be dark colors, (BLACK).

b. Slides
1. Submit in standard Kodak 80 Slide Carousel.
2. Slide Tray should include the following information:
   a.   Name of Presenter
   b.   Agenda Item Number
   c.   Number of Slides Used
3. Slides should be submitted to Governing Board Operations staff before the meeting starts.
4. Slides with text should have color contrast for clarity (dark blue background with white text, for example). Please remember that if you reduce the font size to put more information on a page, it will be harder to read. It is better to use more overhead pages rather than a smaller font size.

  c. On Screen Shows
   Start with a blue background, yellow text for titles, white text for body and red
   bullets. These contrast and project well. If you need other colors for distinguishing
   from different things than use a light green or light blue.

5.   **How to submit WRAC backup and/or presentations materials:**
  a. Back up materials intended to inform WRAC members prior to the meeting must be
   forwarded electronically to Governing Board Operation's staff 15 days prior to the
   meeting. Waiver of this 15 day requirements may be obtained for special conditions
   by contacting Governing Board Operations staff ahead of due date.

  b. Copies of presentations meant for distribution at the meeting can be provided to
   Governing Board Operation's staff two (2) days prior to an out of town meetings or
   one (1) day prior to a headquarters' meetings.

  c. Number of copies needed for WRAC agenda items/presentation:
   • 1 electronic original
   • 150 B&W Copies for distribution on the day of the meeting (PowerPoint
    presentations shall be printed three (3) slides per page).